

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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DERRICK LAMAR MCKNIGHT,

Petitioner,

v.

WARDEN BAKER, *et al.*,

Respondents.

Case No. 3:17-cv-00681-MMD-CLB

ORDER

Petitioner has filed a counseled amended petition for a writ of habeas corpus. (ECF No. 48.) Respondents will need to respond to it.

It is therefore ordered that Respondents must file a response to the amended petition, including potentially by motion to dismiss, within 60 days of entry of this order and that Petitioner may file a reply within 30 days of service of an answer. The response and reply time to any motion filed by either party, including a motion filed in lieu of a pleading, will be governed instead by Local Rule LR 7-2(b).

It is further ordered that any procedural defenses raised by Respondents to the petition must be raised together in a single consolidated motion to dismiss. In other words, the Court does not wish to address any procedural defenses raised herein either in serial fashion in multiple successive motions to dismiss or embedded in the answer. Procedural defenses omitted from such motion to dismiss will be subject to potential waiver. Respondents must not file a response in this case that consolidates their procedural defenses, if any, with their response on the merits, except pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(2) as to any unexhausted claims clearly lacking merit. If Respondents do seek dismissal of unexhausted claims under § 2254(b)(2): (a) they must do so within the single motion to dismiss not in the answer; and (b) they must specifically direct their argument to the standard for dismissal under § 2254(b)(2) set forth in *Cassett v. Stewart*, 406 F.3d 614,

1 623-24 (9th Cir. 2005). In short, no procedural defenses, including exhaustion, may be
2 included with the merits in an answer. All procedural defenses, including exhaustion,
3 instead must be raised by motion to dismiss.

4 It is further ordered that, in any answer filed on the merits, Respondents must
5 specifically cite to and address the applicable state court written decision and state court
6 record materials, if any, regarding each claim within the response as to that claim.

7 DATED THIS 3rd Day of May 2022.

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MIRANDA M. DU
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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